

(c) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control and International Border in J & K is a recurring phenomenon. Appropriate and adequate response is made by the Army to suitably counter such firing. Weekly telephonic conversations between the Indian Director General of Military Operations and his counterpart, and local level flag meetings, are utilised to convey our concern at such incidents. These channels have been effective in keeping tensions under check along the border.

[English]

National Monuments

334. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Charminar and Macca Masjid are one of the oldest national monuments in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether large sections of people from India and abroad visit these monuments;

(c) if so, whether any restrictions were imposed by the authorities for visitors;

(d) if so, whether this has resulted deterioration in the condition of Charminar and Macca Masjid;

(e) whether the Government are considering to provide sufficient funds for these monuments and to lift restrictions on the visitors; and

(f) the time by which the Government are likely to prepare an action plan for their beautification, with a view to make them attractive for the tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Charminar is a centrally protected monument and Macca Masjid is looked after by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Visitors are not allowed to go to the top storey of the Charminar since 17.11.1986 following an accident in which five members of a family committed suicide by jumping from the top floor of the Minar.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Charminar monument is in a good state of preservation and regular attention is paid towards its maintenance. There is no proposal to lift the restriction for visiting the top storey of Charminar.

Inclusion of State Roads as N.Hs.

335. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up with the Planning Commission the issue of inclusion of State roads proposed to be declared as National Highways during the Ninth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) 9th Plan has yet to be finalised and it is too early to give details.

[Translation]

Encroachment in Danapur Cantt., Bihar

336. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire nearby land of the bus-stand located in Danapur Cantt. under Patna District of Bihar has been encroached; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to free the above land from the encroachment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Part of land of the bus stand and nearby area measuring approximately 558 sq meters has been encroached upon.

(b) The Cantonment Board has initiated action for removal of the encroachment.

[English]

Private Participation in Port Sector

337. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified areas for the private sector participation in the port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any clear cut guidelines for the major ports in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following areas have been identified for private sector participation in the port sector :—

(1) Leasing out existing assets of the port.